

FINAL REPORT  
OF  
The Society for Helping  
Destitute Mothers and Infants

Including a Study of the  
Records of the Society of Five Hundred Cases

AND  
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR  
1917-18

BOSTON  
PRINTED FOR THE SOCIETY

1919

This work was begun in 1873, at the earnest desire and with the co-operation of Dr. Susan E. Dimock and her friend Bessie Greene. After their early death in 1875, it was continued, guided, and largely supported by the wise counsel and generous kindness of friends, now no longer living. Among those to whom we owe most gratitude are Mrs. William B. Greene, Mrs. James Freeman Clarke, Mrs. Otto Dresel, Mrs. Eliot C. Clarke, Mrs. Charles J. Paine, Dr. Charles P. Putnam, Mrs. William C. Williamson.

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At a meeting of the Council and Corporation on November 11, 1919, it was unanimously voted to include the following resolutions in the present Report:—

“At the annual meeting, January 17, 1918, the following resolutions were adopted by unanimous vote of the meeting:—

“In accepting the resignation of Miss Lilian Freeman Clarke from the Secretaryship of this Society, because of physical disabilities that prevent her carrying on the duties of that office, we wish to express our deep regret for the reasons that make this necessary.

“We realize profoundly and appreciate the great part she had in the foundation of the Society for Helping Destitute Mothers and Infants nearly fifty years ago, and that after the deaths of Dr. Dimock and Miss Greene, in their still early youth, the burden of carrying on the work fell almost wholly upon Miss Clarke, who through many years of self-consecration and devotion sustained and directed the work until others came to share the responsibility and divide the care.

“We recognize with admiration the unflinching courage and firmness with which she has maintained the original standards and the essential idea underlying this work for helping destitute mothers to keep their infants, in days and through years when other workers in this line were far from comprehending the inherent value of the methods employed by this Society and now acknowledged by them all as those most just and effective.

“Great honor is due to Miss Clarke for the clear thought and for the thorough and fine work that she has always given and required,—and for the devotion, enthusiasm, and faithfulness with which she has made this a lifelong service. Her name must not leave us. As our Honorary President may her interest continue to remain with us; and may the influence of her long and successful work for the re-establishment and happiness of uncounted human souls be an inspiration to those who have the future of this Society in their keeping.”

## REPORT OF THE SECRETARY.

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After nearly fifty years of continuous service The Society for Helping Destitute Mothers and Infants has closed its doors and ended its labors.

The last printed Report of the Society was issued January 1, 1918, and in the autumn of that year the Council and Corporation reluctantly came to the conclusion that the financial condition of the Society did not warrant its continuing its activities. In common with almost all other local charities, the receipts had fallen off alarmingly during the last five troubled years, and it seemed entirely hopeless to arouse sufficient interest and sympathy for a philanthropic undertaking which had never appealed but to a few, and perhaps had never relied sufficiently upon the larger public and a general appeal to the community. The Society always worked quietly, and drew its support from a few faithful friends and steady contributors: as the years went on, these dropped away, death took many, and the younger generation was more interested perhaps in starting undertakings of its own, rather than in furthering an older philanthropy, of whose aims and ideals it had little appreciation.

In the face of a steadily diminishing income, and this total lack of outside interest, it seemed impossible to continue our work, and a campaign for funds was a hopeless prospect while all other charities were suffering under a similar handicap, owing to the diversion of all support and sympathy towards war-sufferers and patriotic causes.

While our financial condition was the primary reason for the discontinuance of the Society, yet there were other factors which contributed strongly against our continuing the work. Probably only a few of the older members of the Council and Corpo-

ration were in a position to judge of the vital changes that have taken place in social conditions since the Society was founded, and in order to cope with this new and widely different situation of the present day, a complete reorganization of the Society would have been necessary, entailing a large office with modern equipment, an increased clerical force, and of course a greatly augmented staff of experienced social workers. Only those intimately connected with the Society realize that we have been working without all these advantages, and that we can show a very remarkable record for high efficiency during the past fifteen years (before this period our office-work was not systematized) considering our modest equipment and very small staff of workers. In a large measure this unusual record is owing to the untiring devotion and unusual ability of our Executive Secretary, Miss E. M. Locke, upon whose shoulders the whole practical work rested after failing health had compelled Miss Clarke, one of the three originators and later the chief moving spirit of this charity, to give up all active participation. It was largely owing to Miss Locke's fine insight and wise judgment that we were able to maintain the high standards set for us by Miss Clarke and her little band of co-workers, among whom Miss Mary R. Parkman should be especially mentioned, who gave long years of devoted service to this cause. After the early death of Doctor Dimock and Miss Bessie Greene, the chief responsibility for the work was divided between Miss Clarke and Miss Parkman. Miss Parkman was in charge of the patients at the Boston Lying-in Hospital, while Miss Clarke visited at the New England Hospital for Women and Children. In the face of a great increase in the number of mothers and infants sent to us, and the far more intricate problems confronting us, and while more modern methods of scientific investigation and systematic recording were gradually introduced, we pride ourselves upon never having lost sight of the original principle, that *a mother* needed help as an individual, and that a human creature was intrusted to us, to aid, advise, and influence, at a time in her life

when she was most impressionable, and capable of taking through our help an upward step into self-respect and self-support, or of falling lower into the slough of discouragement, poverty, and perhaps vice, as a result of poor environment, ill-health, and unwise advice.

When Dr. Dimock and Miss Greene together with Miss Clarke first started work, nearly fifty years ago, conditions were comparatively simple, and the only requirement seemed to be, to take care of these friendless girl-mothers and their helpless babies. Boston was a little place in those days, and the foreign population was comparatively small, except for a certain number of Irish. The young girls that came into the care of the Society then were of a very different type from those that have come to us lately: the country girl bewildered and led astray by the life of the great city; or the Irish immigrant, lonely and homesick, yielding to any influence that brought her sociability and companionship,—such as these were grateful for the friendly hand and warmly responsive to the sympathetic touch of human sisterhood. If occasionally a young mother proved stubborn and unmanageable, in those days she was simply considered obstinate, or called “stupid”; under our modern methods she would have been given a psychopathic examination by a recognized alienist, and probably would have been adjudged feeble-minded, or at least sub-normal mentally! But on the whole, in those days, it was plain sailing: the mother and child were provided with necessary clothing, perhaps given temporary medical treatment for any apparent physical ailment, and then despatched as soon as possible to some quiet, kind household in the country, where the majority regained health and balance, and were thus launched upon a future that promised a return to self-respect and a restored position in the community. The change to present-day conditions and methods of course came gradually, but certainly the picture is a far darker one to-day.

In the first place, our investigation of each case became a very different one: in the early days little inquiry was made,



beyond the information the patient gave, and references from sources she herself supplied. Later it became our invariable rule to investigate, through one of our own responsible and experienced workers, all antecedents: the family history, school record, and later reputation were not taken upon hearsay, but were a matter of exact knowledge, to be studied as the strongest factors in the understanding and handling of the case. Furthermore this knowledge was reduced to a systematic record, preserved for future contingency and instantly available to any other society co-operating with us, or seeking information regarding any mother and child applying to them for assistance.

The vital changes above mentioned entailed a vast amount of additional work, but a still heavier burden was put upon our workers through the changed character of social conditions, and the far more complicated problems that were presented to us. The "simple country girl" having proved in later years virtually non-existent, it became largely a question of disposition; and for many years one part of our work, and a not inconsiderable one, has been the acting as a sort of clearing-house for other Boston charities, who were liable to send any mother-and-baby case to us, and the more hopeless and impossible the case, the more liable it was to be put in our care!

After a physical examination and test for sexual contagion, in many cases a mental examination followed, and only after such, and a verified knowledge of the past history and present circumstances of the mother applying to us, could we render any decision regarding the disposal of the case. The great amount of work necessary even *before* we could decide to "take the case" cannot be fully realized by an outsider, and when upon our records the item appeared, "Transferred to such or such a society," or "sent to such or such an institution," it meant that a very large amount of faithful and painstaking investigation preceded such a course. Therefore a record of "cases accepted" signified only a small percentage of the actual work accomplished.

In regard to our "accepted cases" the character of our work also underwent a gradual but distinctive change: while formerly domestic service in a suitable family and environment solved the problem satisfactorily, later it was very exceptional to be able to place a mother and child; in some cases the mother could not be persuaded to take a position to do housework, preferring the independence of working in a store or factory, and unwilling to face the monotony of country life,—in many cases we could not conscientiously put a young woman into close contact with an employer's family, owing either to physical condition, mental irresponsibility, or moral degeneracy. Herein lies the explanation of the exceedingly small percentage of women placed at domestic service: out of five hundred cases studied in the present Report only 66 took positions to do housework, while out of the same number 350 were accepted "for some disposition."

It is beyond the scope of the Secretary's Report to enlarge upon the deeper-lying causes of the problem of illegitimacy, but one significant fact should not be overlooked in reviewing the work of the Society: out of the five hundred cases studied, by actual psychopathic examination more than *one-fifth* proved to be mentally defective or insane, while a large proportion of these were high-grade defectives, and though not committable to institutions for the feeble-minded, remained a constant and growing menace to the community, being often the mothers of a succession of illegitimate children, who in their turn were almost certain to inherit and transmit the same mental deficiency.

It will be seen that, quite apart from the actual practical causes that contributed to our decision, to bring our work to an end, the problem had far outgrown the limits of a small private society, with an office staff of only one Executive Secretary, one or two Visiting Agents, and one stenographer! The wonder is not that the burden became too heavy for such weak forces to bear,—the wonder is, rather, that we existed so long and accomplished such an enormous amount of efficient work! And

this with no sacrifice of high humanitarian ideals, and with a strict adherence to practical and systematic methods, which have become a standard to other societies, both in Boston and in other outside cities. This accomplishment is owing in large part to the faithful and unswerving devotion of our workers,—the brains and ripe experience of our Executive Secretary, Miss E. M. Locke (without whose able and energetic generalship the continuance of the Society would long since have been impossible), as well as the unfailing faithfulness and tact of our Head Visitor, Miss Sanford (who accomplished the seemingly impossible in her contact with our mothers and babies), and the enthusiastic co-operation of our assistant workers.

Grateful acknowledgments are also due to the various physicians whom we at different times called in consultation.

In bringing the work of the Society to a close, it is the earnest wish of the Corporation and Council that a larger, stronger, better-equipped, and scientifically systematized organization may take over the work, profiting by our experience, and giving credit to the pioneer undertaking that first entered upon this unlimited field of philanthropic effort. It seems probable that a large part of the work of the Society must in the future devolve upon the State. Several committees and societies are engaged upon an exhaustive study of the contributing causes of the problem of illegitimacy, and till these causes are recognized, and the State assumes its responsibilities towards the mentally deficient and morally depraved, conditions will remain much as at present,—presenting a hopeless and chaotic front to the appalled social-service worker.

So far, the edges of the problem have been but nibbled at,—the solution lies in the future, and will mean salvation for unborn generations.

LOUISA DRESEL,  
*Secretary.*

NOVEMBER, 1919.



## REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY.

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“To analyze and record past experiences is one way to promote future growth,” and therefore, in the hope that the work instituted by The Society for Helping Destitute Mothers and Infants may be enlarged and extended, the following report is written.

This study is based on the records of five hundred unmarried mothers who applied consecutively to the Society in the period between January, 1914, and October, 1918. Married women with illegitimate children, or those whose marriages were belated or forced, somewhat different problems, are not included in this number.

As our records were not written primarily for research, and as each mother and infant presented a situation of acute distress, it is not surprising that much valuable data are lacking.

The schedule devised for the compiling of information was designed to show the type of woman who comes to the knowledge of a society specializing in the care of unmarried mothers. The present inquiry aims to throw some light on the practical side of one of the most complicated and puzzling of all social problems.

The data gathered show such personal characteristics and experiences as race and nativity; length of residence of the foreign-born; age; education or training; occupation or means of obtaining a livelihood; wages; habits and delinquency; physical health and handicaps; mental condition as disclosed by psychological examinations and the resulting diagnoses. Facts about their family life, such as number of illegitimate children, and the character of their parental home, are also recorded. Finally, the schedule shows the action taken by the Society, and its ultimate results.

We have before us, then, five hundred unmarried mothers, 264 or 52.8 per cent. of whom were born in the United States and 236 or 47.2 per cent. in foreign countries. Only 6 per cent. were colored.

To avoid duplication of effort, and in order that our applicants might be spared the necessity of telling their difficult stories more than once, and also to insure for them appropriate treatment and efficient help, the Society, in common with nearly all the other charities of Boston and vicinity, made it a practice to inquire at the Confidential Exchange,\* whether our clients were being dealt with or had been known to any of the other social organizations. (Table I.)

TABLE I.  
DISTRIBUTION OF INQUIRIES AT CONFIDENTIAL EXCHANGE.

RESULT OF INQUIRY.	TOTAL.		NATIVE-BORN.		FOREIGN-BORN.	
	Number.	Per Cent.	Number.	Per Cent.	Number.	Per Cent.
TOTAL.....	500	100.0	264	100.0	236	100.0
Not known.....	213	42.6	100	41.2	104	44.0
Known to 1 agency.....	169	33.8	80	33.7	80	33.8
Known to 2 agencies.....	72	14.4	39	14.7	33	13.9
Known to 3 agencies.....	25	5.0	16	6.0	9	3.8
Known to 4 agencies.....	13	2.6	8	3.0	5	2.1
Known to 5 agencies.....	4	0.8	2	†	2	†
Known to 6 agencies.....	2	†	1	†	1	†
Known to 7 agencies.....	2	†			2	†

The results of these inquiries show (Table I.) that at the time of our introduction to the situation, 213 applicants or 42.6 per cent. were *not known* to the Confidential Exchange. Also, that there had been 486 inquiries about 287 women by 58 organizations (47 private and 11 public), as follows,—medical agencies, 22; children's societies, 16; relief agencies, 11; correctional, 3; and miscellaneous, 6.

In 49 cases the families of our applicants had previously been known, thus:—

\* The Confidential Exchange is a central bureau or clearing-house where social agencies by furnishing only "identifying information," such as name, age, and address of the person applying, may ascertain whether any other societies are charitably interested.

† Number too small to compute.

2 families were known to 9 agencies.  
 1 family was known to 8 agencies.  
 3 families were known to 7 agencies.  
 4 families were known to 6 agencies.  
 5 families were known to 5 agencies.  
 4 families were known to 4 agencies.  
 7 families were known to 3 agencies.  
 8 families were known to 2 agencies.  
 15 families were known to 1 agency.

This is an average of more than 3 social agencies for each family.

These figures indicate that there is considerable overlapping in the efforts of the agencies to render assistance, and that at least one-fifth of the native-born applicants came from families already known to be socially and economically incompetent.

Statistics as to the nativity of the unmarried mothers have value in showing to what extent the problem has to do with the foreign-born. (Table II.)

TABLE II.  
 LENGTH OF RESIDENCE OF FOREIGN BORN UNMARRIED MOTHERS.

YEARS IN UNITED STATES.	TOTAL.	
	Number.	Per Cent.
TOTAL.....	236	100.0
Under 5 years.....	107	45.3
5 years and less than 10.....	81	34.3
10 years and over.....	36	15.2
Unrecorded.....	12	5.0

Twenty nationalities were represented by the 236 women of foreign birth. Of these 79 were born in Canada (almost all were born in the Maritime Provinces); 69 in Ireland; 11 in Newfoundland; 10 each in Sweden, Scotland, and the West Indies; 9 in England; 8 in Russia; and 30 in other countries. All of these women were of foreign-born parentage and in only twenty-two instances had the entire family emigrated.

Their subsequent social histories, as recorded by the Society, show that one out of every three of these immigrants eventually

either became a charge on the State or was likely to become such, because of mental defect.

According to the Immigration Act which became effective May 1, 1917, "any alien who within five years after entry becomes a public charge from causes not affirmatively shown to have arisen subsequent to landing, shall, upon the warrant of the Secretary of Labor, be taken into custody and deported."

It is certainly significant that at the time of application to the Society half (107) of the alien group had been in this country less than five years, and that all but twelve of these had previously applied to other charitable organizations for advice or aid.

Prior to 1917 three years was the time limit for deportation. Of the number included in this enumeration whose applications were made previous to the date mentioned, 49 had been in the United States less than three years.

In the native-born group, about four-fifths of the women stated they were born in Massachusetts. Of these, 101 claimed Boston as their birthplace and 114 are recorded as having been born in fifty-two other cities and towns in the State. The remaining 49 were born in other States, and of this number 26.5 per cent. were colored. (Table III.)

TABLE III.  
NATIVITY OF UNMARRIED MOTHERS.

BIRTHPLACE.	Total.	Number.	Per Cent.
TOTAL.....	500		100.00
Native-born:—.....	264		
Boston.....		101	38.25
Other cities and towns in Massachusetts.....		114	43.18
Other New England states.....		31	11.74
Other states.....		18	6.81
Foreign-born:—.....	236		
Canada.....		79	33.47
Ireland.....		69	29.23
Newfoundland.....		11	4.66
Sweden.....		10	4.23
Scotland.....		10	4.23
West Indies.....		10	4.23
England.....		9	3.81
Russia.....		8	3.38
Finland.....		5	2.11
Poland.....		4	1.69
Other countries.....		21	8.89

The residence of these women, at the time of application to the Society, was as follows: 136 were boarding, in lodgings or with friends; 134 were in their own homes or with relatives; 113 were patients in lying-in hospitals; 38 in the homes of their employers; 34 in temporary homes; 28 in maternity or convalescent homes; and 17 in public infirmaries.

The ages of the unmarried mothers ranged from fifteen to forty-two years. The table on age distribution shows that there were twice as many American girls under twenty as there were immigrant girls. Also, that more than half the women were in the group whose ages were "twenty to twenty-four years," inclusive. By comparing this percentage with the percentage of women in the same group in Table V, which covers all mothers of illegitimate children, regardless of civil condition, who applied during the fifteen-year period, 1904-1918, it will be seen that the proportion is about the same. This is to be expected, as it is the period of life when the average woman marries.

There were 10 per cent. more American than immigrant women between "twenty and twenty-five years," and 20 per cent. more foreign-born than native-born women between "twenty-five and thirty years." (Tables IV. and V.)

TABLE IV.  
AGE DISTRIBUTION OF UNMARRIED MOTHERS.

AGE AT APPLICATION.	TOTAL		NATIVE-BORN.		FOREIGN-BORN.	
	Number.	Per Cent.	Number.	Per Cent.	Number.	Per Cent.
TOTAL.....	500	100.0	264	100.00	236	100.00
Under 20 years.....	52	10.4	36	13.63	16	6.78
20 years and less than 25.....	281	56.2	155	58.71	126	53.38
25 years and less than 30.....	124	24.8	50	18.93	74	31.35
30 years and over.....	43	8.6	23	8.70	20	8.47



TABLE V.

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF MOTHERS WITH ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN APPLYING  
TO THE SOCIETY FOR HELPING DESTITUTE MOTHERS AND INFANTS.

1904-18.

AGE.	NUMBER OF MOTHERS OF SPECIFIED AGES BY FIVE-YEAR PERIODS.							
	TOTAL.		1914-18.		1909-13.		1904-08.	
	No.	PerCent.	No.	PerCent.	No.	PerCent.	No.	PerCent.
TOTAL .....	2,087	100.00	706	100.00	675	100.00	706	100.00
Under 20 years.....	313	14.99	73	10.34	120	17.77	120	16.99
20 years and less than 25..	1,048	50.21	388	54.95	311	46.07	349	49.43
25 years and less than 30...	477	22.85	157	22.23	155	22.96	165	23.37
30 years and over.....	226	10.82	85	12.03	82	12.14	59	8.35
Unrecorded .....	23	1.10	3	.42	7	1.03	13	1.84

The data contained in the records in regard to the education of the foreign-born women is too meagre and unsatisfactory to justify classification. That it would have been impossible to secure accurate information as to their schooling (except in the few instances where they emigrated at an early age) cannot be gainsaid. With the exception of thirteen, all could speak the English language. Adding to the 264 American-born women, 16 women of foreign birth who came to this country in their childhood, there were 280 women who attended school in the United States.

One hundred are recorded as having finished grammar school; thirty-three of these entered high school, but only a fourth of that number completed the course. Of those known to have failed to graduate from grammar school nearly 36 per cent. remained in school until they were fifteen years or over. More than a third dropped out in the sixth grade, or in the grades below it, which is not surprising in view of the fact that later in life one out of every two was diagnosed a mental defective. More than five-eighths of the number left in the seventh, eighth, or ninth grades.

Even allowing for inaccuracies of statement and discrepancies

in standards, the table gives evidence of a decided tendency in these women to fall far below their normal grade in school.

Only eight had special training: 3 had taken commercial courses; 2 were training for nurses; 1 had graduated from normal school; 1 had specialized in music, and 1 in elocution. (Table VI.)

TABLE VI.  
AGE AT LEAVING SCHOOL.

SCHOOL GRADE.	TOTAL.	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	Unknown.
TOTAL.....	280	5	20	65	35	23	18	4	7	103
Ungraded Class....	2	..	..	2						
First Grade.....	1	..	..	1						
Second Grade.....	2	..	1	..	1					
Third Grade.....	1	..	..	..	1					
Fourth Grade.....	7	1	1	1	2	2				
Fifth Grade.....	8	1	1	1	2	1	..	..	..	2
Sixth Grade.....	24	1	5	10	3	1	..	..	..	4
Seventh Grade.....	20	1	3	10	6	2	4	1	..	2
Eighth Grade.....	40	..	5	14	0	5	2	..	..	5
Ninth Grade.....	81	..	4	23	0	0	4	1	1	30
High, 1st year....	8	..	..	1	1	1	..	1	..	4
High, 2d year....	11	..	..	..	..	1	6	..	1	3
High, 3d year....	5	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	2
High, 4th year....	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	4
Unknown.....	52	1	..	2	1	1	..	..	..	47

The means of obtaining a livelihood of the 478 girls who were gainfully employed, previous to the birth of their children, includes sixteen different occupations. Forty-four per cent. were engaged in domestic or personal service, and 92 per cent. of these were employed at housework in private families. The percentage of foreign-born women in this group was considerably higher than those of native birth—66 per cent. as compared with 25 per cent.

The next highest group, 31 per cent., was composed largely of semi-skilled factory operatives; but here the ratio is reversed, with 42 per cent. native-born women as against 18 per cent. of foreign birth.

All the other occupations comprised 19 per cent. of the total enumeration; the remainder were dependent on their families for support.

It was noted that there was a great tendency among domestics, waitresses, factory and laundry operatives, to shift from one occupation to another—housework to factory work or *vice versa*, especially during pregnancy, when a change of environment, due to efforts to conceal their condition, was desired.

Of those whose wages were known, 96 girls earned less than five dollars a week, 284 received between five and ten dollars, and 34 ten or more dollars a week. In this connection it must be remembered that the majority of those who received the lowest wage, such as domestics, waitresses, and hospital attendants, received their board in addition thereto. (Table VII.)

Consideration of the physical health of the unmarried mother is of primary importance, and social workers cannot afford to disregard this question at the outset of their dealings with the problem. The very nature of the distressful situation suggests the probability of a depleted physical condition.

As 72.6 per cent. of this enumeration, at the time of application to the Society, were prospective mothers or mothers of infants less than two months old, this side of the problem was thrust upon us with considerable force.

Although an effort was made to secure complete information on this subject, the data gathered reveal a knowledge of the physical condition of only 340 patients. According to the medical reports furnished by twenty different sources, including public and private hospitals and out-patient clinics, maternity homes, dispensaries, and private physicians, over 81 per cent. (276) of these patients were free from contagious disease.

Mindful of the responsibility of the Society towards the mother, her child, and the community, and conscious of the possibility of each patient having been infected with syphilis or gonorrhoea, an especial effort was made to determine their condition with reference to these diseases.

It is therefore of interest to note that the records of 226 women (two-thirds of the number whose physical condition was known)



specifically state that they were given the test for these diseases. One-half of this number (113) had both tests; 75 had the test for syphilis, and 38 were tested for gonorrhœa only. As the remaining 114 women were reported in good condition by the various institutions that made the examinations, it may be safe to assume that the tests were made whenever clinical evidence demanded it.

The results of these laboratory examinations showed that 3 persons were infected with both diseases, 31 with syphilis only, and 29 with gonorrhœa only, making a total of 63 (nearly 28 per cent.) venereally diseased persons.

There was but one case of tuberculosis recorded.

It would be false to imply that these women were otherwise in normal physical condition, for over 60 per cent. of the total number were either pregnant or were the mothers of infants from one day to three weeks old. Their previous mode of life, worry, undernourishment, lack of hygiene,—all contributed to undermine their health, and in many instances made their convalescence from confinement slower than it would have been for the average woman in happier circumstances. Only 31 per cent. had pre-natal care, and, notwithstanding the abundant facilities Boston offers for confinement care, many of our applicants in the hospitals were admitted to the maternity wards as “emergency cases,” lack of forethought, the fear of disclosure, or dread of being detained in an institution causing them to procrastinate until the hour of delivery.

There is no more disheartening case than a woman handicapped with some physical deformity and still further hampered by illegitimate motherhood. Sixteen women had physical handicaps of such a nature as to render them industrially inefficient,—namely, blind in one eye, or a crippled hand, each, three girls, partially paralyzed, humpbacked, club-footed, deaf, or a speech defect, each, 2 girls.

Habits of drinking and being “out nights” are closely allied



with immoral conduct; and thus five girls were recorded as alcoholic, and fourteen others as having been on the street at night. This form of amusement is generally associated with lax discipline in the home and defiance of parental authority. Three were known to be dishonest, and thirty-six, not otherwise classified, were recorded as promiscuously immoral.

Only 23 girls were recorded as having transgressed against the civil law. Their court records were as follows: eight were arrested for having been idle and disorderly, seven for larceny, six for lewdness, and one each for vagrancy and drunkenness. In seven instances the girls were arrested more than once.

The danger to society of the mentally diseased or feeble-minded woman of child-bearing age is generally recognized. Mental defect is so closely interrelated with illegitimacy and dependency that the question of the mentality of the unmarried mother is a very important one.

To determine the mental condition of an individual it is necessary to consider her family history, environment, physical condition, personal habits, peculiarities and conduct, education and employment record, and to have her carefully examined by an accredited psychologist.

It was obviously impossible to have routine examinations of our applicants, so that of the total enumeration, only 129, or about 26 per cent., had mental tests. The distribution of these mental examinations was as follows: Psychopathic Hospital, 87; public institutions, 17; out-patient clinics at state institutions, 5; private alienists, 16; public alienists, 4.

The resulting diagnoses were 23 pronounced of normal mentality (including three "psychopathic personalities," and one *moral* defective, whose repeated lapses necessitated the recommendation for custodial care), 7 insane, 3 epileptics, 81 feeble-minded, and 15 sub-normal persons.

Thus it will be seen that more than one-fifth (106) of the total were mentally diseased or defective.

In the insane group there were four American-born and three foreign-born women; their ages ranged from nineteen to twenty-nine years. One had epilepsy also. With the exception of a non-committable case, all are having treatment in appropriate hospitals.

Of the three epileptics, all natives, one was feeble-minded, her mental age being equal to a normal child of a little more than eight years. Commitment to the State Hospital for Epileptics was recommended, but her parents objected and she and her baby are at home. The two others were normal between seizures, but were also in need of treatment and custodial care.

Immigrant girls comprised about one-half the cases pronounced definitely feeble-minded. The actual ages of the latter group were between sixteen and forty-two years, inclusive. Two belonged to the imbecile class, or those whose mental development did not exceed that of a normal child of about seven years. The remainder were high-grade defectives or the so-called morons; all of these individuals had the mental level of children under twelve years of age; 45 were between ten and twelve years, and 28 under ten years. In 6 instances the mental age was not stated.

The higher-grade morons are an especial menace to the community because of their irresponsibility, and also because their appearance and bearing does not suggest feeble-mindedness to the inexperienced observer. Many of them are attractive in person, confident in manner, and are extremely plausible. They exhibit no fear of consequences or anxiety for the future; they do not profit by experience. They are affectionate, weak-willed, lacking in judgment and self-control, and are easy victims of unprincipled persons.

Custodial care was recommended for 57 (70.37 per cent.) of these patients, but so overcrowded are the institutions for the feeble-minded that only about one-sixth of that number were committed. Nearly one-half (27) of the committable cases

were foreign-born women, and a third of these had been in this country less than five years.

A glance at the family histories of the native-born women shows such factors as dependency, alcoholism, imprisonment, juvenile delinquency, vagrancy, insanity, immoral conduct, illegitimacy, feeble-mindedness, physical handicaps, disease, desertion, divorce, and degeneracy.

The sub-normal group varies only in degree of mental defect and practically the same conditions obtain as above described. To illustrate:—

Margaret was born in Boston, and was the eldest in a family of nine living children. At sixteen she was graduated from grammar school, but was in a special tutor class. Her school report stated she was an extremely nervous girl and “seemed to have a tendency to weak mentality and lacked strength in all her undertakings.” At seventeen she was arrested for drunkenness, and at nineteen her first child was born. She applied to us at twenty-three with her third baby.

The report from the Psychopathic Hospital stated she “is a defective, that is, in judgment and inhibition, though not feeble-minded. Her love affairs are not promiscuous and she is not a prostitute type.”

The parents are a low type; the father’s wages are inadequate and the children underfed. All the children are weak mentally and three of them show the same tendencies.

Table VIII. shows that this group of epileptic, feeble-minded, and sub-normal women gave birth to 147 children: 59 had one child, 33 had two children, 6 had three children, and 1 had four children. Considering that four-fifths of these mothers had the mentality of children under twelve years of age and that mental defect is incurable and is almost certain to be transmitted to offspring, the seriousness of the problem is apparent.

TABLE VIII.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN BORNE BY FEEBLE-MINDED, EPILEPTIC, AND SUB-NORMAL UNMARRIED MOTHERS.

AGE.	No. of Women of Specified Ages.	No. of Children.	NUMBER OF CHILDREN BORNE BY WOMEN OF SPECIFIED AGE GROUPS.											
			Total.				Native-born.				Foreign-born.			
			I	2	3	4	I	2	3	4	I	2	3	4
TOTAL.....	99	*** 147	59	** 33	* 6	I	36	I3	4	I	23	20	2	
Under 20 years.....	8	8	8	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	3			
20 years and less than 25..	56	79	36	I7	*3	..	24	8	*3	..	I2	9		
25 years and less than 30..	22	35	10	*II	I	..	4	3	..	..	6	*8	I	
30 years and over.....	I3	25	5	*5	2	I	3	*2	I	I	2	3	I	

"Mother-love" is one of their strongest characteristics, but as it is not tempered by reason or self-abnegation, the children quickly pass beyond their control, and when the time arrives that the best interests of the latter demand a separation, moral suasion oftentimes proves to be a poor substitute for authority. For it must be remembered that, although this group of women were medically certified as mentally defective while in the community, they had the same social and legal rights in relation to their children as though they were mentally normal persons; and it was only when indisputable evidence could be produced that the child was "physically neglected or morally exposed" that the law would intervene to protect him from the instability of a mother, who, through no fault of her own, suffered from such a serious mental handicap.

If it is true that four-fifths of the cases of feeble-mindedness are of direct inheritance, should the children be still further hampered by bad feeding, improper hygiene, and being shifted about from one abode to another at the discretion of the defective parent in whose absolute control they are? From experience and observation covering a period of years the statement is

\* A twin.

made that, under our present system, keeping a baby in the personal care of a feeble-minded mother even during infancy is a grave responsibility.

It is a striking fact that in only 9 instances (16 per cent.) were the family conditions in the homes of the native-born defectives such that the parents could be expected to give the mother and infant supervision and protection. Thus in the majority of our cases, these defective mothers, so poorly endowed and ill-equipped for the battle of life, were set adrift in the community and not only expected to maintain themselves, but also to provide support, physical care, and training for their children. The futility of using a plan intended for normal persons at once becomes evident, and therefore it is interesting to note the ultimate disposition of this group of epileptic, feeble-minded and sub-normal individuals.

According to the last information recorded, the whereabouts of 28 were unknown; 22 were under the supervision of charitable organizations (12 of these were supervised by public agencies); 15 were under the guidance of their relatives; 13 were married (7 of these to the father of the child); 12 had left Massachusetts (7 of whom were deported to foreign countries); 7 were committed to state institutions for the care of the feeble-minded; and 2 had died.

As the 147 children of this group of mentally defective mothers are potential factors in the problem, it is worth while to consider their whereabouts. So far as known, 76 (more than half) were in the control of their mothers, as follows: 34 were in their personal care; the whereabouts of 20 were unknown; 11 had left the State (7 of these having been deported with their mothers); and 11 were in unsupervised boarding-homes. The remaining 71 children had been disposed of, thus: 29 were cared for as public dependents; 24 had died; 12 were in the care of private agencies; and 6 had been legally adopted.

These figures seem to indicate that, notwithstanding the



earnest efforts of many charitable organizations working together in harmony, 56 per cent. of the living mothers and 44 per cent. of the surviving children were at the last account adrift in this community without authoritative supervision, and likely to transmit their mental disability to succeeding generations.

The greatest influence for good or evil in a young girl's life lies in her natural environment—her home, and on the character of that home depends in a large measure her future destiny. Among the many factors that contribute to moral delinquency, one of the most direct is an abnormal family situation, that is, one broken by death, divorce, separation, or desertion; or one in which there is mental disease or defect, vice or degeneracy. With these thoughts in mind, we will consider the family background of this group of women.

In 244 histories of the 500 women the home was broken by the death of one or both parents, and in 26 by divorce, separation, or desertion. In 193 cases the father and mother were living together; in 14 additional cases the girl was of illegitimate parentage and therefore never had a normal home; the remaining 23 cases lacked data.

Studying particularly the family background of the American women plus the twenty-two foreign-born whose families had made the United States their home by adoption, it was found that in the 215 cases in which sufficient information was recorded to justify classification, more than 62 per cent. (134) of the homes were of poor character.

Serious alcoholism of one or both parents, or of brothers or sisters, stands out as the greatest menace in 32 per cent. of the families. Misdemeanors of adults and juvenile delinquency come next in 23 per cent. of the families; immoral conduct of one or more members in 15 per cent.; while feeble-mindedness and illegitimacy appear in 14 per cent., with insanity in a considerably smaller number. Moreover, these social factors

frequently occur in various combinations in the same family, together with their attendant evils,—physical, moral, or medical neglect, and general worthlessness. Through the intervention of the courts, nine of these women in childhood were removed from the care of their parents because of neglect and placed under the guardianship of the State Board of Charity, or the Trustees for Children of the City of Boston, for the period of their minority. Another group of six, for the same reason or because of physical handicaps, were brought up in private institutions, and an equal number, on account of the death of one or both parents, had been reared by relatives or friends.

In 70 out of the 215 cases (or about one-third), the families, so far as known, were self-respecting and in more or less comfortable circumstances.

While heredity, bad living conditions, ignorance, and mental defect undoubtedly are among the causative factors of illegitimacy, it would be difficult to weigh with any degree of accuracy the relative influence of each of these factors.

The attempt has not been made to tabulate the previous sex irregularities of these women, but no one who has contact with the problem of unmarried mothers can fail to learn that sex experiences frequently begin early in youth. Therefore, the number of children born out of wedlock is not a correct measure of actual lapses from virtue. On the other hand, it must be stated that women of the type under consideration, as a rule, are unfamiliar with methods of forestalling the consequences of their wrong-doing and are unprovided with the means of concealing these consequences.

It is sufficiently disturbing to know that the five hundred women whose records form the basis of this study were the mothers of six hundred and thirty-seven illegitimate children.\*

Table IX. shows that of the enumeration, 386 mothers had one child, also that 114 mothers had two or more children. In

\* In this number are included 7 sets of twins.

TABLE IX.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN BORNE BY UNMARRIED MOTHERS OF SPECIFIED AGE GROUPS.

AGE.	No. of Women of Specified Ages.	No. of Children.	NUMBER OF WOMEN OF SPECIFIED AGES WHO HAVE BORNE SPECIFIED NUMBER OF CHILDREN.											
			Total.				Native-born.				Foreign-born.			
			1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
TOTAL.....	500	637	**** 386	** 99	*14	1	*** 200	*54	9	1	*186	*45	*5	
Under 20 years.....	52	59	*47	4	1	..	*33	2	1	..	14	2		
20 years and less than 25..	281	348	*220	*57	4	..	*113	*38	4	..	107	19		
25 years and less than 30..	124	167	*80	*29	6	..	36	11	3	..	*53	*18		
30 years and over.....	43	63	*30	9	*3	1	*18	3	1	1	12	6	*3	*2

extenuation of this statement it is only fair to add that one out of every three of the mothers in the latter group was certified to be a mental defective. Nearly 80 per cent. of these mothers had two or more children when they came to the knowledge of the Society.

These additional children numbered one hundred and thirty; 55 per cent. of their births occurred within a period of three years, 28 per cent. within a period of five years.

Of the 637 births, 42 per cent. occurred in hospitals, 8 per cent. in public infirmaries, 20 per cent. in maternity homes, 20 per cent. in private homes, and 10 per cent. were unrecorded. Sixty-nine per cent. of the women who were confined in their own home, in the home of a relative, friend, employer, or in lodgings, were known to have had medical care.

When application was made to the Society, 28 per cent. of the women were pregnant, 34 per cent. had infants one day to three weeks old, 11 per cent. three weeks to two months, 11 per cent. two months to six months, 7 per cent. six months to one year, and 9 per cent. one to five years.

Of the total, 43.2 per cent. had prolonged postnatal care, and of this number the Society directly provided for one-fourth of

\* A twin

the women by boarding them in selected private families until such time as they had completely regained their strength.

Perhaps the greatest danger encountered by the inexperienced worker in this field of social work lies in the temptation to treat the problem of the unmarried mother and her baby without first learning the real facts in the case. The very practical nature of such cases and the distress in which the patients are so often found account for many a hasty diagnosis. To make quick decisions with justice to the patients or safety to the community requires special aptitude or the power of discrimination born of long experience.

It is not safe to approach the problem of unmarried motherhood except with an open mind, and successful results cannot be obtained by employing methods of fixed policy, or by approaching the problem with preconceived ideas as to treatment. It must be borne in mind that behind each of the figures mentioned in this report is a living woman, with a distinct personality, and differing in characteristics from every other human being. That she is in the most pitiable plight that can befall her sex only increases the difficulty, for the social worker, also being human, is in grave danger of allowing her sympathy to outweigh her judgment.

Undoubtedly, different phases of the problem are presented to the various social organizations in Boston dealing with such cases. It has been shown that the highest percentage of cases presented to our Society for consideration were women of mature years and with more or less fixed habits of life. Therefore, not only had the workers to consider the previously mentioned factors in the past life of the women, but also had to consult with them as to their own needs and desires. Furthermore, it must not be forgotten that when they came to us for help, great harm had already been done, and the emphasis had to be laid on the danger of a recurrence of the situation and of strengthening their moral character through work in wholesome

surroundings and faithful motherhood. As the work was carried on without an institution, and as the Society had no official authority over its clients, it had to depend wholly upon a volition in the minds of the women for any measure of success it may have attained.

It has been said that the work was founded on an *idea*\*; namely, helping an unmarried mother to keep her infant in her personal care, provided her character and mentality made her a suitable guardian for the child. Obviously, the child-mother needed different treatment from the mother of mature years, and to determine whether they were fitted for their important task required weeks and sometimes months of patient inquiry and study.

The disposition made of all applications falls into three well-defined groups: withdrawn, referred, and accepted cases.

The *withdrawn* group is composed of those women who disappeared soon after the initial interview and of whom nothing further was known; those who left the State or were so uncoöperative that helping them was out of the question; and those who, on account of some unexpected development in the situation, were recalled by the referring agency,—in all, 63 cases.

The *referred* group is composed of special types of cases which were sent to other societies for investigation and treatment, and those that were returned to public or private agencies because of previous dealings or because the problem was active with the agency at the time,—all together, 87 cases.

Thus it appears that 350 mothers and infants, 70 per cent. of the enumeration, were *accepted* by the Society for social diagnosis or treatment, according to the individual needs of the case. Analysis of the action taken shows that 52 per cent. were assumed by the Society for advice and care; that for 36 per cent. it was necessary to have recourse to various other organizations; and that 12 per cent. were withdrawn while under consideration.

\* Miss L. Freeman Clarke—Annual Report of the Society, 1914-15.



In the *first* division of this group, over 33 per cent. of this number (116 mothers) were advised and supervised or advised and aided by our Society. Of this number, seventy-five women (64 per cent.) either were returned to or remained in the homes of their parents or relatives; twenty-four married the father of the child, or another man; fifteen, all of whom had been aided, elected to be self-directing; and two died.

The especial function of the Society was to find employment for the mother and at the same time assist her to keep her infant in her personal care. This study reveals that less than 19 per cent. (66 mothers) were placed at housework in private families.

In the *second* division, after making the investigation, it was discovered that over 23 per cent. (83 mothers) were not the type to be cared for by a private charity. They were incompetent; diseased, requiring prolonged hospital treatment; undesirable aliens who, after they became public charges, were proper subjects for deportation; or they were in need of permanent custodial care. And furthermore, nearly 60 per cent. of this group were mentally diseased or defective. Consequently, these women were put in the care of public infirmaries, state institutions, or other agencies for public relief.

Because of some special requirement, another group comprising 12 per cent. (43 mothers), after a diagnosis had been made, were placed in the care of other private charities, such as maternity homes, child-caring or protecting societies, or medical agencies. A few needed study as factors in bad home situations, and hence came within the scope of an organization specializing in family problems.

The *third* division, comprising 12 per cent. (42 mothers) was composed of those who proved to be unwilling to change their mode of life or were so uncoöperative that our efforts were unavailing.

When the Society ceased its activities, one-half of the mothers in the accepted group were known to have been separated from

their children. Twenty-six per cent. were separated within one month of birth (almost a third of these infants had died); 26 per cent. within three months; 13 per cent. within six months; 19 per cent. within one year; 10 per cent. within two years; 6 per cent. within three to four years.

The findings show that while 62 per cent. of these mothers had begun to nurse their infants, they weaned their babies at an early age. Of those who came under our special care, 128 (70 per cent.) nursed their infants—one-fourth of these for the full period of nine months; one-eighth for the period of six months or more; one-fourth for one to six months; and the remainder less than a month, or the time was not specified.

Scanning the histories of the 350 mothers for whom the Society became socially responsible, to ascertain the attitude of the girl towards the father of her child, it was found that in 64 per cent. of the cases, the alleged father, so far as known, was not approached and did not bear any share of responsibility for the support of his child. Closer examination shows that in more than half (121) of these cases, legal action was inexpedient or impossible, because of the known or admitted character of the girl, because of her mental disability, because the jurisdiction was in another country or State, or because the accused had died or disappeared.

In the remaining cases (104) legal action was not taken, because the girl refused information, was unwilling to prosecute, or for a multitude of other reasons.

In 125 cases the alleged father was held to his obligation to support his child. Eighteen per cent. of the men were married and an additional 4 per cent. were widowed or divorced; half of this number were responsible for the support of a family of legitimate children. In age and occupation they ranged from a school-boy of seventeen to a retired business man of eighty-one years. As would be expected, the majority were laborers, servants, or factory workers.

In all but six cases the paternity of the child was admitted, or established by the evidence. In 48 cases the father measured up to his responsibility, in full or in part, by voluntary marriage (in 21 cases) to the mother, or by contributions of money for confinement expenses, the support of the child, or both.

Court proceedings were initiated in 77 cases and resulted in some provision being made for the child in 56 per cent. of the cases. About a third (25) resulted in adjudication and an order to support the child—the average weekly payment ordered being two dollars and fifty cents. In 10 cases a settlement was made by the payment of a lump sum, the amounts varying from \$150 to \$1,000, and averaging about \$400. In 8 cases a marriage was effected. In 10 cases the warrant had not been served; in 9 the outcome was pending or unknown; in 7 the defendant was sentenced to prison; in 2 he had defaulted; and in 6 he was dismissed as not guilty.

Less than 11 per cent. of the total number of women were known to have married,—35 to the father of the child, and 19 to another man.

The preceding inquiry gives but little idea of the complexity of the problems under consideration, and in a composite picture such as this it is difficult to portray the ramifications involved.

The aim of the Society was to give individual consideration to its clients and to follow the after-care of the mother and child as long as expedient. Once again we must remember that we were dealing with mature women who were subject to all the vicissitudes of life, and by the same token needed continuous oversight and guidance.

In the last review the attempt was made to show what had become of these 500 mothers and their 637 children. The analysis shows positive knowledge of the whereabouts of 57 per cent. of the total number of mothers: 117 were living with parents or relatives; 75 had left the State or country (half of those who left the United States were legally deported); 44 were living

with their husbands; 27 were in institutions, such as insane hospitals, schools for the feeble-minded, or reformatories; 13 were employed at housework in private families under the supervision of the Society; and 7 had died. Of those whose whereabouts were unknown, the responsibility for three-fourths had been assumed by other social organizations.

Information about the location of the children was more readily obtainable, for the disposition of 84 per cent. was recorded as follows: 74 had died; 68 were out of the State or country; 49 were public dependents; 43 were in the special care of child-helping agencies; 29 had been legally adopted; and 4 were in free homes. So far as known, 146 children were in the personal care of their mothers; 75 were boarded in private families selected by their mothers; 29 were living with their mother and father (or stepfather); and 21 were cared for by relatives. The whereabouts of the remainder (99 children) were unknown.

Human problems such as we have been considering will always remain with us, and it is for us to see that they are solved in the most intelligent and efficient manner. It is within only a comparatively few years that social workers have come to appreciate the enormity of the burden placed upon society by the mentally incapable; and just so long as defectives are allowed to multiply, we shall labor under the strain of "trying to drain the horn whose other end connects with the sea."

When it comes to pass that every child has a complete physical and mental examination before it leaves school, many of the potential mothers of illegitimate offspring will have been discovered and cared for before they become a menace to the community.

It is obvious that more complete and scientific information is needed in regard to the aliens who are allowed to enter this country.

The need of permanent and authoritative supervision of the children of illegitimate mothers is also apparent, for after all

the sifting has been done, and all the diagnoses made, there remains the endless task of following the lives of these unfortunates.

In work of this nature the table is never cleared, the task is never done, and we may spend our lives for results which are, in truth, only a drop in the bucket. Discouragement and failure would long since have ended our efforts, were we not sustained by the belief that every drop is infinitely precious to God to Whom our responsibility is so immeasurably great.

E. M. LOCKE,

*Executive Secretary.*



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## APPLICATIONS

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The applications received from November 1, 1917, to October 31, 1918, came from the following sources:—

Private individuals . . . . .	13
Physicians . . . . .	1
Associated Charities:	
Boston . . . . .	12
Cambridge . . . . .	2
Malden . . . . .	1
Somerville . . . . .	1
Salem . . . . .	1
Through advertisement in <i>Transcript</i> . . . . .	3
Sign on building . . . . .	4
Through former applicant . . . . .	1
State Board of Charity:	
Division of State Adult Poor . . . . .	1
Division of State Minor Wards . . . . .	1
Children's Institutions Department . . . . .	2
Children's Aid Society . . . . .	15
Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children . . . . .	2
Children's Friend Society . . . . .	3
Children's Mission . . . . .	2
Avon Home . . . . .	2
Church Home Society . . . . .	1
Chardon Street Home . . . . .	1
New England Home for Little Wanderers . . . . .	1
North End Mission . . . . .	1
Salvation Army Home . . . . .	2
Union Rescue Mission . . . . .	1
Saint Mary's Infant Asylum . . . . .	1
Baby Hygiene Association . . . . .	1
Infant's Hospital . . . . .	1
State Health Nurse, Ayer . . . . .	1
Hospitals:	
Boston Lying-in . . . . .	5
Boston City, Social Service . . . . .	17
Homœopathic, Social Service . . . . .	7
Massachusetts General, Social Service . . . . .	8
Deaconess . . . . .	1

Directory for Wet-Nurses . . . . .	4
Dispensaries:	
Boston . . . . .	5
New England . . . . .	1
Maverick . . . . .	1
Berkeley Infirmary . . . . .	1
Eye and Ear Infirmary . . . . .	2
Consumptives' Hospital . . . . .	1
Nurseries:	
Trinity . . . . .	1
South End . . . . .	2
Cottage Place . . . . .	1
Westboro State Hospital . . . . .	1
Children's Welfare Bureau, Lynn . . . . .	2
Red Cross:	
Boston . . . . .	5
Somerville . . . . .	2
Boston Legal Aid Society . . . . .	1
Travellers' Aid Society . . . . .	1
Trinity Church . . . . .	1
Probation Officer . . . . .	1
Denison House . . . . .	1
Greek Missionary, Lowell . . . . .	1
New York D. M. I. . . . .	1
Newton Overseers of the Poor . . . . .	1
Cambridge Overseers of the Poor . . . . .	1
Jamaica Plain Friendly Society . . . . .	1
Roxbury Charitable Society . . . . .	1
Young Women's Christian Association . . . . .	1
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#### CASES DEALT WITH FROM NOVEMBER 1, 1917, TO OCTOBER 31, 1918, INCLUSIVE.

Cases in care November 1, 1917 . . . . .	84
Pending disposition November 1, 1917 . . . . .	9
New applications . . . . .	157
Old cases reapplied . . . . .	10
	<u>176</u>
	<u>260</u>

#### DISPOSITION OF NEW APPLICATIONS.

Accepted:	
Placed under supervision . . . . .	24
Temporarily otherwise placed . . . . .	1

Sent to Public Institutions for care . . . . .	11
Sent to Public Institutions for deportation . . . . .	2
Advised . . . . .	12
Married father of child . . . . .	3
Considered but made own plans . . . . .	6
Withdrawn:	
By applicant . . . . .	16
Pending . . . . .	2
Returned to parents . . . . .	3
Returned to relatives . . . . .	10
Left the State . . . . .	4
Referred to other Societies . . . . .	27
Referred back to other Societies . . . . .	29
Baby died . . . . .	1
Disappeared . . . . .	2
Child adopted . . . . .	1
Child boarded . . . . .	2
Cases refused . . . . .	1
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#### REFERRED TO OTHER SOCIETIES.

##### Associated Charities:

Boston . . . . .	4
Lynn . . . . .	1
Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children . . . . .	2
Catholic Charitable Bureau . . . . .	2
Children's Friend Society . . . . .	1
Children's Aid Society . . . . .	1
Children's Mission . . . . .	1
Church Home Society . . . . .	1
House of Mercy . . . . .	1
State Adult Poor . . . . .	4
Overseers of the Poor . . . . .	1
Trustees for Children . . . . .	1
Red Cross . . . . .	1
Psychopathic Hospital . . . . .	1
Hebrew Charities . . . . .	1
City Hospital, Social Service . . . . .	1
Boston Legal Aid . . . . .	1
New England Dispensary . . . . .	1
Waltham Social Service League . . . . .	1



## REFERRED BACK TO OTHER SOCIETIES.

## Associated Charities:

Boston . . . . .	5
Somerville . . . . .	1
Salem . . . . .	1
Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children . . . . .	2
Catholic Charitable Bureau . . . . .	2
Children's Aid Society . . . . .	3
Child Welfare Bureau, Lynn . . . . .	1
St. Mary's Infant Asylum . . . . .	1
Council of Jewish Women . . . . .	1
City Hospital, Social Service . . . . .	3
Infant's Hospital . . . . .	1
Eye and Ear Infirmary . . . . .	1
Providence Lying-in Hospital . . . . .	1
Probation Office . . . . .	1
Greek Missionary . . . . .	1
Trustees for Children . . . . .	1
State Minor Wards . . . . .	1
Red Cross . . . . .	1
Denison House . . . . .	1
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	29
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## MOTHERS AND INFANTS IN CARE OF OUR VISITORS.

Remaining in our care November 1, 1917 . . . . .	93
New cases added . . . . .	34
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	127
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## CASES CONCLUDED BETWEEN NOVEMBER 1, 1917, AND OCTOBER 31, 1918.

Married . . . . .	18
Returned to husband . . . . .	2
Returned to parents . . . . .	9
Returned to relatives . . . . .	9
Referred to other Societies . . . . .	19
Left State . . . . .	8
Mother died . . . . .	2
Child died . . . . .	3
Disappeared . . . . .	4
Self-directing . . . . .	16
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	90
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## MOTHERS ASSISTED DURING FISCAL YEAR.

NOVEMBER 1, 1917, TO OCTOBER 31, 1918.

Old cases (continued) . . . . .	103
New cases . . . . .	157
Whole number assisted . . . . .	260
Married women (new cases) . . . . .	25
Unmarried women (new cases) . . . . .	132
	157
Married women (old cases) . . . . .	14
Unmarried women (old cases) . . . . .	89
	103
Married women (old cases) . . . . .	14
Married women (new cases) . . . . .	25
	39
Unmarried women (old cases) . . . . .	89
Unmarried women (new cases) . . . . .	132
	221

## NATIONALITY OF OLD CASES.

*(Married.)*

American . . . . .	3	English, born in Canada . . . . .	2
Swedish . . . . .	2	French-Canadian . . . . .	1
Irish . . . . .	3	Colored . . . . .	1
Irish-American . . . . .	1		14
Lithuanian. . . . .	1		

*(Unmarried.)*

American . . . . .	6	Swedish-American . . . . .	1
Irish . . . . .	12	Portuguese-French . . . . .	1
Irish-American . . . . .	25	Scotch-English . . . . .	1
English-American . . . . .	1	Scotch-American . . . . .	1
Swedish . . . . .	4	Portuguese-American . . . . .	1
German . . . . .	1	French-American . . . . .	3
Norwegian . . . . .	2	French-English . . . . .	1
Polish . . . . .	1	English, born in Canada . . . . .	9
English . . . . .	1	French, born in Canada . . . . .	2
Scotch . . . . .	3	Scotch, born in Canada . . . . .	5
Portuguese . . . . .	2	English-Scotch . . . . .	1
Jewish . . . . .	1	Colored . . . . .	4
			89

## NATIONALITY OF NEW CASES.

*(Married.)*

American . . . . .	9	English-American . . . . .	1
Irish . . . . .	4	Colored . . . . .	2
Irish-American . . . . .	4	Irish, born in Canada . . . . .	1
Italian . . . . .	1	Unknown . . . . .	1
Norwegian . . . . .	1		
French-American . . . . .	1		<u>25</u>

*(Unmarried.)*

American . . . . .	27	Norwegian . . . . .	1
Irish . . . . .	23	Finnish . . . . .	1
Irish-American . . . . .	31	Portuguese. . . . .	1
English . . . . .	4	Portuguese-American . . . . .	1
Scotch . . . . .	3	Greek . . . . .	1
French-American . . . . .	2	Greek-American . . . . .	1
French-Canadian . . . . .	7	Jewish . . . . .	2
Swedish . . . . .	2	English, born in Canada . . . . .	4
Swedish-American . . . . .	1	Irish, born in Canada . . . . .	3
German . . . . .	2	Scotch, born in Canada . . . . .	5
German-American . . . . .	3	Scotch-French, born in Canada . . . . .	1
Italian . . . . .	1	Colored . . . . .	4
Italian-American . . . . .	1		<u>132</u>
Polish . . . . .	3		

## AGES OF NEW CASES.

*(Unmarried.)*

15 years old . . . . .	1	28 years old . . . . .	6
17 " " . . . . .	1	29 " " . . . . .	3
18 " " . . . . .	1	30 " " . . . . .	2
19 " " . . . . .	10	31 " " . . . . .	5
20 " " . . . . .	9	32 " " . . . . .	2
21 " " . . . . .	17	34 " " . . . . .	2
22 " " . . . . .	16	35 " " . . . . .	2
23 " " . . . . .	17	36 " " . . . . .	1
24 " " . . . . .	9	37 " " . . . . .	1
25 " " . . . . .	13	38 " " . . . . .	1
26 " " . . . . .	6	42 " " . . . . .	2
27 " " . . . . .	5		<u>132</u>

## REPORT OF TREASURER.

*Receipts.*

## Cash:

On hand November 1, 1917:

Miss Parkman . . . . . \$15.00

Miss Locke . . . . . 53.43 \$68.43

State Street Trust Company . . . . . 2,500.17 \$2,568.60

Sale Pennsylvania Railroad Company stock (17 shares) \$758.26

Sale 2 mortgages Conveyancers' Title Insurance Com-  
pany . . . . . 2,025.09 2,783.35

Mary R. Parkman bequest . . . . . 1,000.00

Donations received November 1, 1917, to January 21, 1919 . . 2,642.50

Board returned by mothers . . . . . 108.93

Miscellaneous . . . . . 1.60

## Interest:

Hollingsworth Estate . . . . . \$16.14

Investments . . . . . 167.25

Bank balances . . . . . 36.60 219.99

\$9,324.97*Disbursements.*

Membership in League for Preventive Work . . . . . \$50.00

Membership National Conference of Social Work . . . . . 3.00

Board of mothers . . . . . 526.75

Dentists' fees for mothers . . . . . 67.00

Board of children . . . . . 77.95

Clothing for mothers and children . . . . . 62.27

Milk and food for infants . . . . . 2.99

Medicine and medical attendance . . . . . 45.26

Burial of D. M. I. child . . . . . 10.00

Salaries . . . . . 5,893.62

Rent of office . . . . . 1,110.00

Bookcase . . . . . 40.00

Rent of rooms for patients . . . . . 50.71

Telephone . . . . . 150.25

Light . . . . . 12.16

Postage . . . . . 75.24

Printing and stationery . . . . . 254.20

Travelling . . . . . 108.08

Advertising . . . . . 61.60

Cleaning . . . . . 34.64

Express . . . . . 9.89

Auditor . . . . . 20.00

Sundries . . . . . 53.89

Total Disbursements . . . . . \$8,719.50

Gain . . . . . \$605.47

# BALANCE SHEET OF THE SOCIETY FOR HELPING DESTITUTE MOTHERS AND INFANTS.

## *Assets.*

### Working Assets:

#### Cash:

State Street Trust Company . . . . .	\$525.93	
Miss Locke . . . . .	<u>79.54</u>	\$605.47

### Capital Assets:

#### Investments:

2 bonds Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Company 4 per cent. 1st Refunding Mortgage Series A .	\$600.00	
4 shares Worcester Consolidated Railway Com- pany 1st Pfd. . . . .	<u>320.00</u>	<u>920.00</u>
Total Assets . . . . .		<u>\$1,525.47</u>

## *Liabilities.*

### Capital Liabilities:

Surplus to January 31, 1919 . . . . .	<u>\$1,525.47</u>
Total Liabilities . . . . .	<u>\$1,525.47</u>

LOUISE ADÈLE GREENE,  
*Treasurer.*

The records kept by the Treasurer have been audited, and the above statement of Assets and Liabilities and Revenue and Disbursements I believe to be true.

Respectfully submitted,

EDWIN B. WHITE,  
*Public Accountant.*

JANUARY 31, 1919.



SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS RECEIVED  
NOVEMBER 1, 1917, TO OCTOBER 31, 1918, INCLUSIVE.

Mrs. Andrew Adie . . . . .	\$25.00	Mrs. M. P. Fearing . . . . .	\$10.00
Mrs. James B. Ames . . . . .	10.00	Mrs. W. Scott Fitz . . . . .	25.00
Anonymous . . . . .	10.00	Mrs. William H. Forbes . . . .	200.00
Anonymous . . . . .	5.00	Mrs. J. G. Freeman . . . . .	10.00
Mrs. William Appleton . . . .	10.00	A Friend . . . . .	50.00
Miss E. S. Bacon . . . . .	10.00	Mrs. Randolph Frothingham . .	5.00
In memory of Robert Hale		A. C. L. Fund . . . . .	10.00
Bancroft . . . . .	10.00	Miss Emily Gray . . . . .	5.00
E. D. Barbour . . . . .	5.00	Miss Harriet Gray . . . . .	25.00
Miss Bartol . . . . .	50.00	Mrs. Roland Gray . . . . .	100.00
Mrs. J. W. Bartol . . . . .	10.00	Mrs. Russell Gray . . . . .	10.00
Miss Lucy Baxter . . . . .	5.00	Mrs. C. P. Greenough . . . . .	5.00
Mrs. Arthur Blake . . . . .	13.00	Mrs. Henry S. Grew . . . . .	50.00
Mrs. S. Parkman Blake . . . .	15.00	Miss Mary R. Grinnell . . . .	20.00
Mrs. Allston Burr . . . . .	5.00	Mrs. S. E. Guild . . . . .	5.00
Mrs. George E. Cabot . . . . .	10.00	Mrs. M. Graeme Houghton . .	25.00
Mrs. Henry B. Cabot . . . . .	50.00	The Misses Hawes . . . . .	5.00
Mrs. William S. Carter . . . .	10.00	Miss Charlotte A. Hedge . . .	5.00
Miss Georgina S. Cary . . . .	25.00	Mrs. F. L. Higginson, Jr. . . .	10.00
Eliot C. Clarke . . . . .	10.00	Interest from Estate of Mrs.	
Miss L. Freeman Clarke . . . .	100.00	Polly R. Hollingsworth . . .	16.14
Mrs. Charles K. Cobb . . . . .	5.00	Mrs. John Homans . . . . .	15.00
Miss C. P. Cordner . . . . .	5.00	Mrs. James R. Hooper . . . .	10.00
Mrs. F. L. Coolidge . . . . .	5.00	Clement S. Houghton . . . .	50.00
Mrs. J. Randolph Coolidge . .	10.00	Mrs. Clement S. Houghton . .	50.00
Mrs. C. A. Cummings . . . . .	5.00	Mrs. E. W. Hutchins . . . . .	3.00
Mrs. Greely S. Curtis . . . . .	20.00	Mrs. Oscar Iasigi . . . . .	10.00
Mrs. John S. Curtis . . . . .	15.00	Mrs. C. C. Jackson . . . . .	10.00
Mrs. E. B. Dane . . . . .	100.00	Mrs. Elliott P. Joslin . . . . .	2.00
Mrs. Horace Davis . . . . .	5.00	Mrs. E. L. Kent . . . . .	10.00
Andrew McF. Davis . . . . .	20.00	Mrs. Charles A. Kidder . . . .	10.00
Dr. Franklin Dexter . . . . .	10.00	Mrs. Henry P. Kidder . . . . .	10.00
Mrs. Charles F. Dole . . . . .	10.00	Mrs. David P. Kimball . . . .	100.00
Mrs. C. R. Eliot . . . . .	3.00	Mrs. Marcus Kimball . . . . .	50.00
Mrs. Edward Emerson . . . . .	10.00	H. Hooper Lawrence . . . . .	5.00
Mrs. R. W. Emmons, 2d . . . .	10.00	Mrs. John C. Lee . . . . .	5.00
William Endicott . . . . .	50.00	Mrs. Joseph S. Lee . . . . .	25.00
Mrs. Harold C. Ernst . . . . .	10.00	Mrs. Augustus P. Loring . . .	25.00

Miss Katherine P. Loring . . .	\$25.00	Miss Marian Russell . . . . .	\$25.00
Mrs. William Caleb Loring . . .	10.00	Mrs. Philip M. Saltonstall . . .	5.00
Mrs. Thornton K. Lothrop . . .	50.00	Mrs. R. M. Saltonstall . . . . .	10.00
Mrs. Francis C. Lowell . . . . .	15.00	Herbert M. Sears . . . . .	25.00
Mrs. F. E. Lowell . . . . .	10.00	Mrs. G. Howland Shaw . . . . .	20.00
Mrs. William H. Lyon . . . . .	25.00	Mrs. R. G. Shaw . . . . .	25.00
Mrs. Emma E. Marean . . . . .	3.00	In memory of Mrs. Quincy A.	
Miss Ida M. Mason . . . . .	50.00	Shaw . . . . .	50.00
Mass. Charitable Fire Society . .	50.00	Mrs. Isaac Sprague . . . . .	35.00
Mrs. W. H. McElwain . . . . .	10.00	Mrs. R. H. Stevenson . . . . .	20.00
Mrs. John Holmes Morison . . .	116.00	Mrs. Cecil Stewart . . . . .	10.00
Miss Amelia Morrill . . . . .	10.00	Mrs. A. D. Sheffield . . . . .	10.00
Miss E. C. Morse . . . . .	3.00	Miss E. H. Storer . . . . .	10.00
Miss Emily Osgood . . . . .	10.00	Mrs. Solomon P. Stratton . . .	10.00
Through Dr. Sarah E. Palmer . .	10.50	Mrs. E. C. Streeter . . . . .	10.00
Mrs. J. H. Parker . . . . .	5.00	Mrs. Sweetser . . . . .	2.00
Bequest of Mary R. Parkman . .	1,000.00	Mrs. John B. Tileston . . . . .	5.00
Mrs. C. E. Pease . . . . .	1.00	Charles H. Traiser . . . . .	5.00
Charles L. Peirson . . . . .	25.00	A. G. Van Nostrand . . . . .	10.00
Mrs. Dudley L. Pickman . . . .	25.00	Mrs. Alfred R. Weld . . . . .	2.00
Miss Agnes B. Poor . . . . .	1.00	Miss Amy White . . . . .	3.00
Mrs. Neal Rantoul . . . . .	50.00	Miss E. F. Williams . . . . .	10.00
Mrs. William H. Reed . . . . .	10.00	The Misses Willson . . . . .	10.00
Dr. W. L. Richardson . . . . .	100.00	Mrs. Robert C. Winthrop . . .	50.00
Miss Annette P. Rogers . . . .	15.00	Mrs. P. W. Wrenn . . . . .	5.00

## DONATIONS OF CLOTHING, ETC.

- The Guild of Emmanuel Church: 6 large diapers; 3 infants' gertrudes (1 long, 2 short); 2 infants' dresses; 7 infants' flannel jackets; 7 infants' flannel nightgowns; 5 infants' flannel wrappers; 6 infants' white slips; 4 infants' white flannel kimonas; 2 infants' white flannel gertrudes; 3 blue flannel petticoats; 3 infants' flannel jackets; 3 infants' flannel bonnets; 3 children's dresses; 4 suits (rompers); 4 flannel nightgowns; 5 flannel wrappers; 3 infants' flannel wrappers.
- Boston Branch of the Needlework Guild: 4 women's flannel nightgowns; 4 women's undervests; 4 women's petticoats; 4 pairs women's stockings; 2 girls' dresses; 10 diapers; 2 girls' night-drawers; 4 bonnets; 3 infants' wrappers; 2 infants' shirts; 2 infants' petticoats; 2 infants' dresses.
- Systematic Sewing Circle: 22 infants' flannel nightgowns; 22 small diapers; 22 large diapers; 11 long gertrudes; 11 short gertrudes; 15 infants' nightgowns; 15 infants' gertrudes; 30 diapers (2 sizes).
- Mrs. E. H. Corson, second-hand clothing: 4 children's dresses; 4 children's bloomers; 2 children's union-suits; 4 children's undervests; 2 children's rompers; 1 child's woollen cap; 1 pair children's stockings; 1 pair children's slippers; 1 child's guimpe.
- Mrs. Alice F. Corson: children's clothing, second-hand.
- Mrs. A. N. Rantoul, second-hand clothing: 4 pairs children's drawers; 1 pair children's bed-slippers; 2 children's raincoats; 2 children's rubber hats; 1 child's sailor hat; 1 child's silk slip; 1 child's petticoat with waist; 1 child's dress; 1 child's underwaist; 1 child's bathrobe, 2 children's sweaters; 1 pair boy's serge trousers; 4 boys' blouses; 2 collars; toys; 3 children's flannel dresses; 2 children's coats; 1 child's underwaist; 1 pair children's leggings; 1 pair corsets; 4 children's union-suits; 6 children's underdrawers; 1 child's bathrobe; 8 boys' trousers; 2 children's dresses; 1 pair leggings; 2 pillow slips; 1 pair children's bed-slippers; 1 child's cap; 2 blankets; bib.
- Mrs. F. W. Sargent: 4 infants' dresses; 2 infants' nightgowns; child's bath-tub; linen.
- Mrs. John H. Morison, for special case: 1 woman's flannel petticoat; 1 woman's flannel wrapper; 2 infants' dresses; 1 infant's wrapper.
- Mrs. S. Brooks: 1 infant's worsted sweater; 1 infant's worsted bonnet; 4 infants' flannel nightgowns.
- Mrs. David Cheever, second-hand clothing: 1 child's romper; 2 baby blankets; 4 afghans.









